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(54) **SYSTEMS FOR AMPLIFYING A SIGNAL USING A TRANSFORMER MATCHED TRANSISTOR**

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See application file for complete search history.

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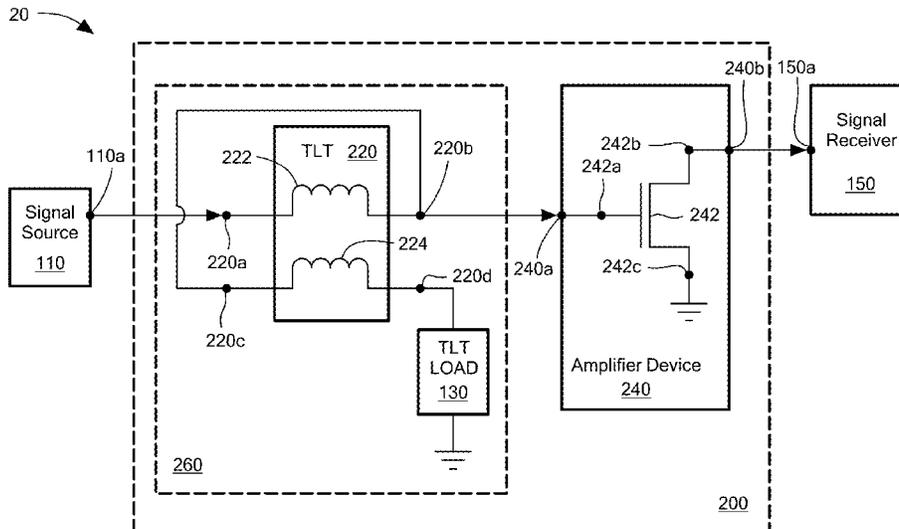
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A circuit for amplifying a source signal generated by a signal source having a first impedance includes a transmission line transformer (TLT) having a first, a second, a third, and a fourth port wherein the TLT is coupled to receive the source signal at the first port and configured to output a corresponding impedance matched signal at the second port, the second port is coupled to the third port of the TLT, the circuit also including a TLT load having a first terminal coupled to the fourth port of the TLT and a second terminal coupled to a reference potential. The circuit additionally includes an amplifier device responsive to the impedance matched signal to generate an amplified signal.

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ..... **H03F 1/483** (2013.01); **H03F 1/565** (2013.01); **H03F 3/189** (2013.01); **H03F 3/193** (2013.01); **H03F 3/24** (2013.01); **H03F 3/245** (2013.01); **H04B 1/18** (2013.01); **H03F 2200/222** (2013.01); **H03F 2200/255** (2013.01); **H03F 2200/318** (2013.01); **H03F 2200/36** (2013.01); **H03F 2200/451** (2013.01);

**20 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets**



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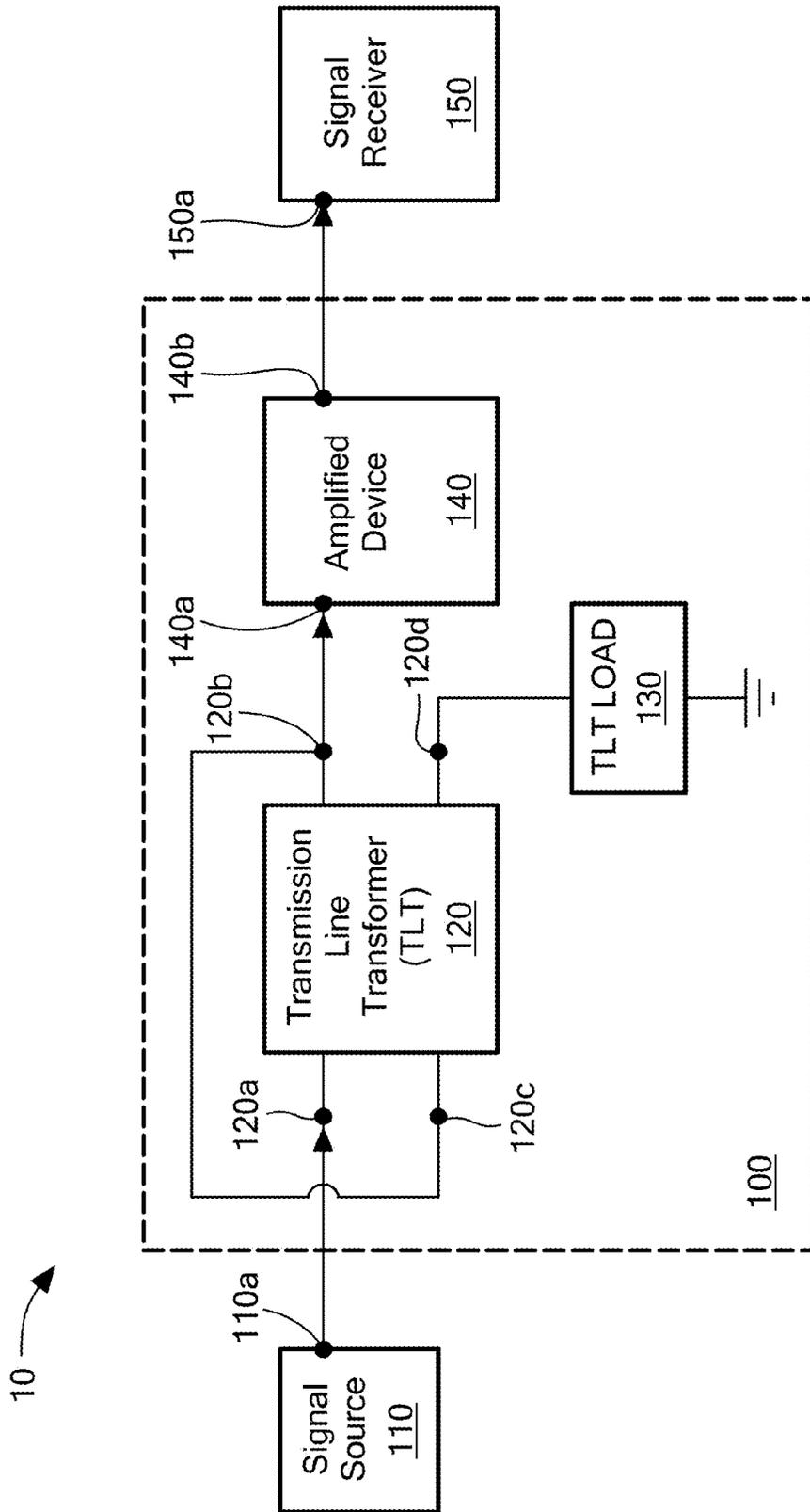


FIG. 1

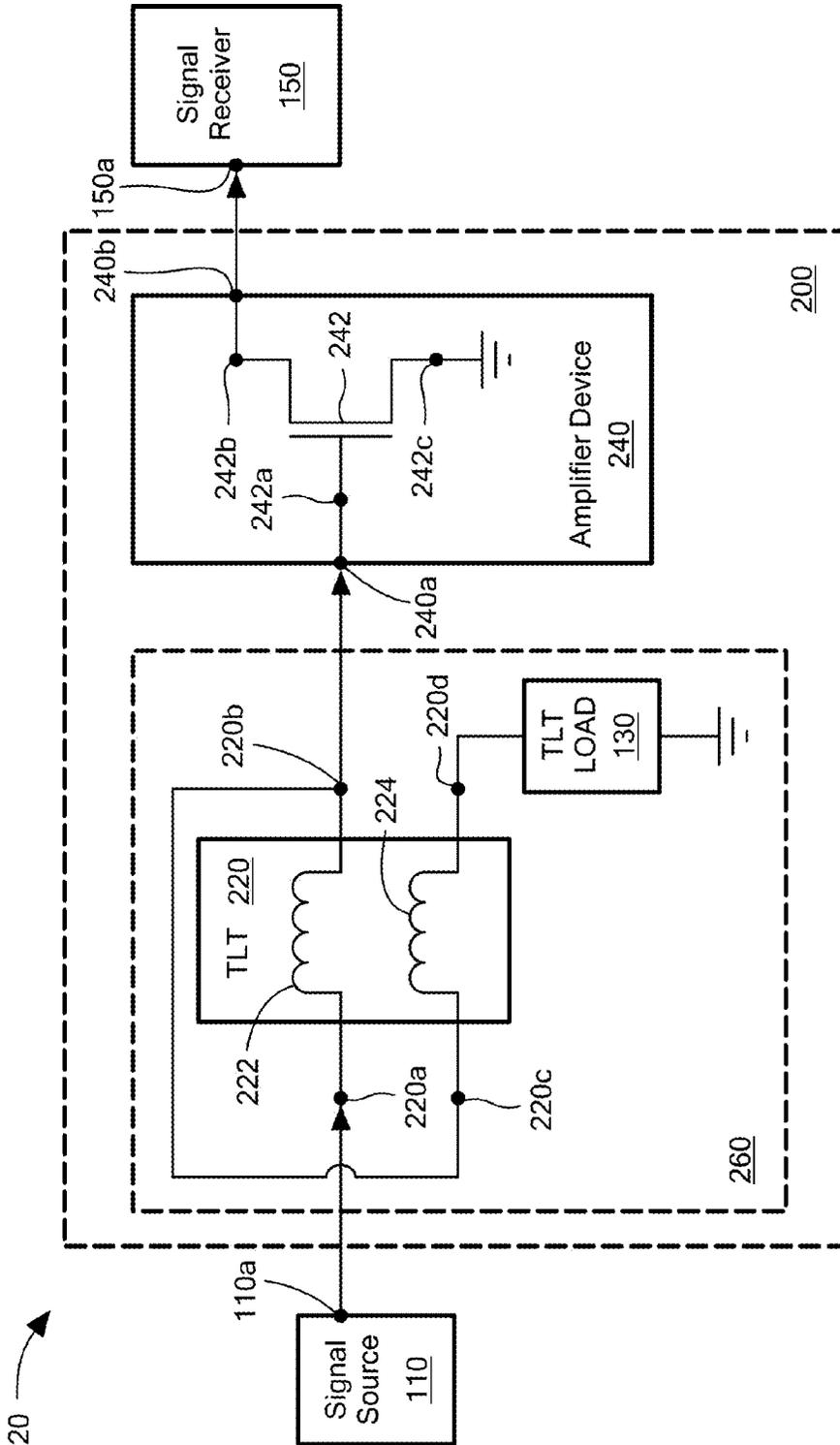
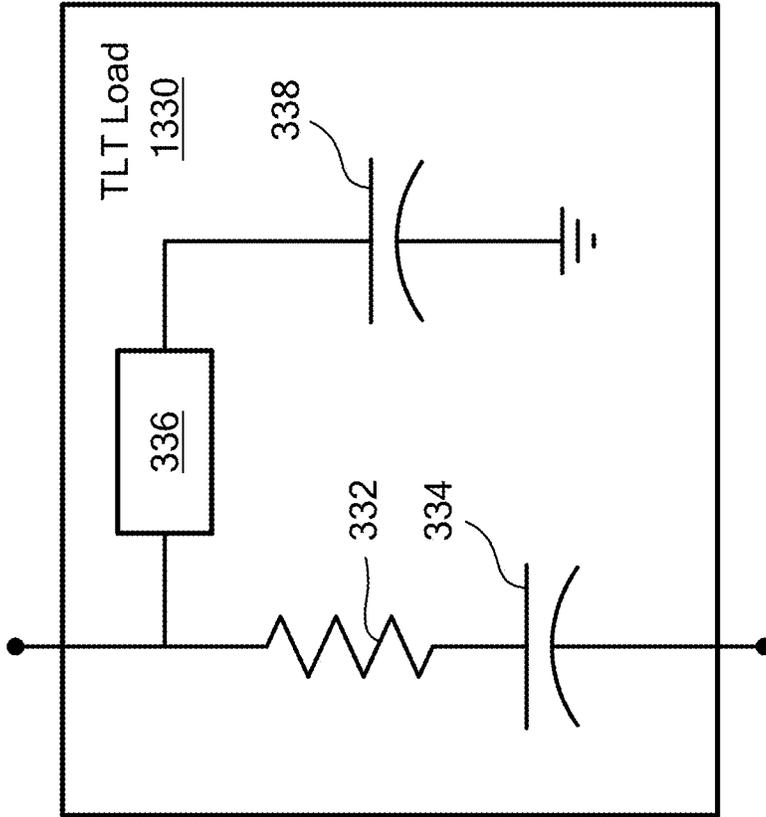
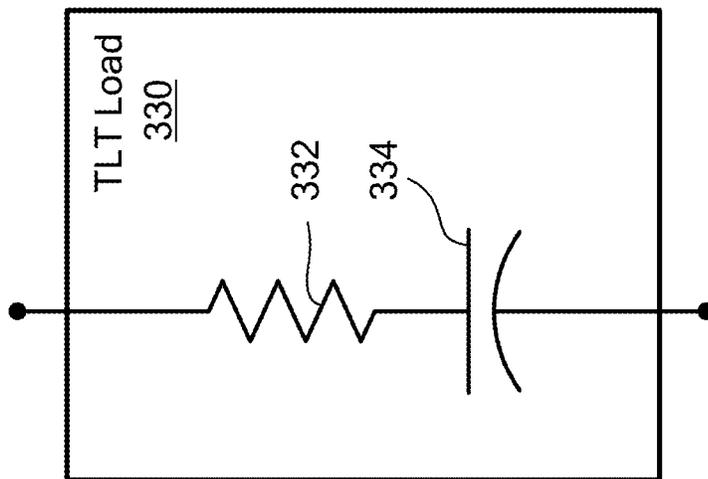


FIG. 2



**FIG. 3A**



**FIG. 3**

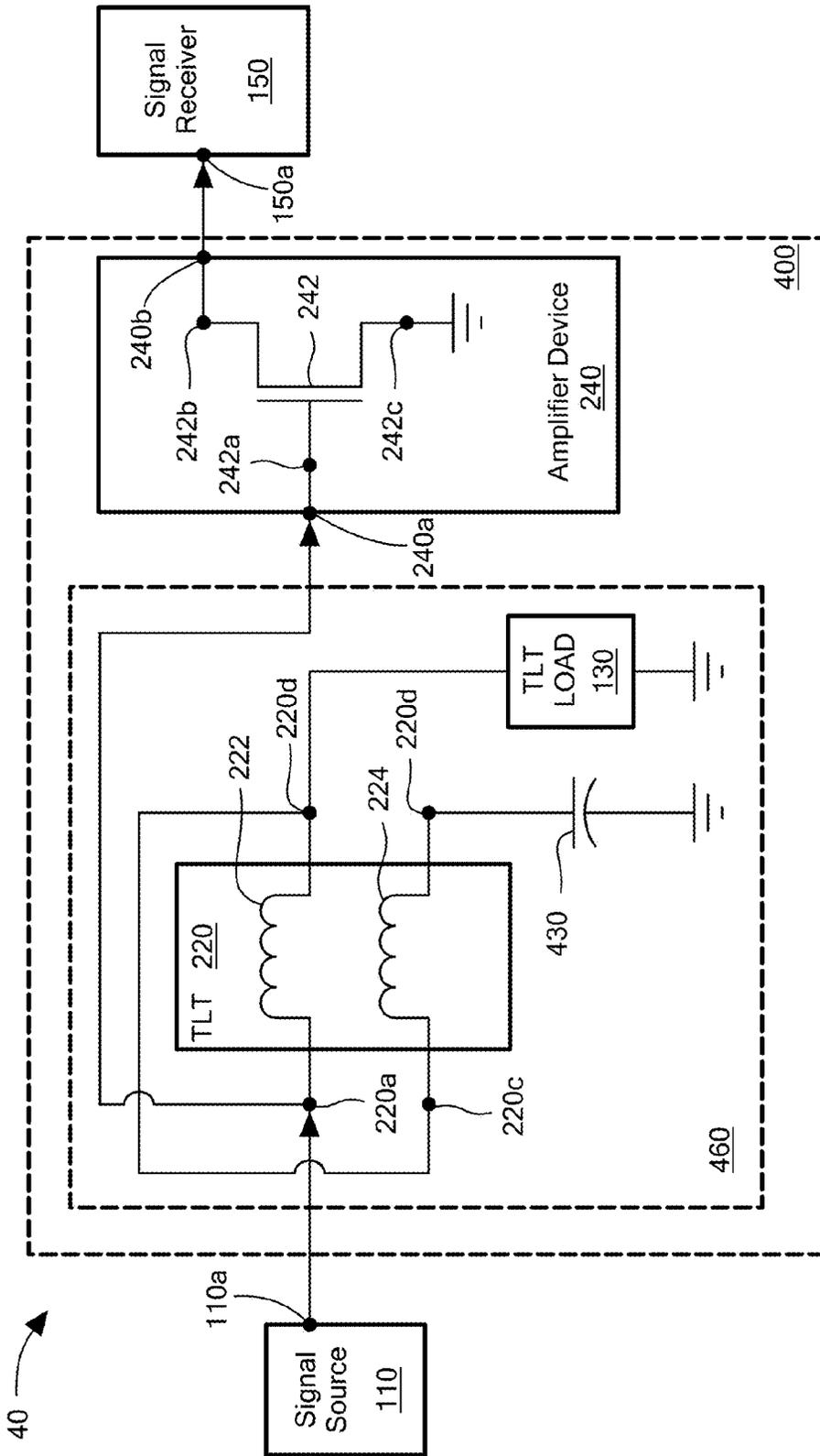


FIG. 4

1

## SYSTEMS FOR AMPLIFYING A SIGNAL USING A TRANSFORMER MATCHED TRANSISTOR

### FIELD

This disclosure relates generally to systems for amplifying a signal, and more particularly, to a system for amplifying a signal using a transformer matched transistor.

### BACKGROUND

As is known in the art, amplifier systems and circuits can be found in a wide variety of applications including electronic warfare, radar, jamming, instrumentation (test and measurement) and communication applications. These systems and circuits typically include an amplifier which is coupled to receive signals from a source which drives or provides signals to the amplifier for amplification. These systems and circuits also typically include an impedance matching device or network which is used to match the output impedance of the source (i.e., the output impedance "seen" by the amplifier being driven by an output of the source) with the input impedance of the amplifier (i.e., the impedance "seen" by the source driving an input of the amplifier) in order to efficiently transfer the signal from the source to the amplifier for amplification.

Known impedance matching networks (e.g., impedance matching networks utilizing shunt capacitors) are generally effective at matching the above-described impedances and providing for maximum gain or power transfer between the source and the amplifier. However, known impedance matching networks typically cause the amplifier to have a reduced or narrower bandwidth than was intended, which is undesirable for reasons apparent (e.g., resulting in the loss of some signal frequencies in the range of signal frequencies which the amplifier was intended to amplify), as described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 7,898,340 and 7,982,544, for example, each of which is assigned to the assignee of the present disclosure and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

The foregoing drives a need for impedance matching networks which provide for increased bandwidth capabilities in comparison to known impedance matching networks. The foregoing also drives a need for systems (e.g., amplifier systems) which include these impedance matching networks.

### SUMMARY

Described herein are concepts, systems, circuits and techniques related to systems for amplifying a signal. The described systems can, for example, be used to provide circuits (e.g., amplifier circuits) for amplifying a signal (e.g., a source signal) generated by a source (e.g., a signal source). The described systems can also be used to provide impedance matching networks, and circuits including amplifiers with increased (or extended) bandwidth capabilities in comparison to known amplifier circuits.

In one aspect of the concepts described herein, a circuit for amplifying a source signal generated by a signal source having a first impedance includes a transmission line transformer (TLT) having first, second, third, and fourth ports. The TLT is coupled to receive the source signal at the first port and configured to output a corresponding impedance matched signal at the second port. The second port of the TLT is coupled to the third port of the TLT. The circuit also

2

includes a TLT load having a first terminal coupled to the fourth port of the TLT and a second terminal coupled to a reference potential. The circuit additionally includes an amplifier device responsive to the impedance matched signal to generate an amplified signal, the amplifier device having a second impedance. The TLT matches the impedance of the signal source with the impedance of the amplifier device such that the impedance matched signal and the source signal are substantially equal in magnitude.

The circuit may include one or more of the following features individually or in combination with other features. The TLT load includes one or more resistors and one or more capacitors. The TLT load includes one or more inductors. A first terminal of a first one of the resistors in the TLT load may be coupled to the first terminal of the TLT load. A first terminal of a first one of the capacitors in the TLT load may be coupled to a second terminal of the first one of the resistors in the TLT load. A second terminal of the first one of the capacitors in the TLT load may be coupled to the second terminal of the TLT load. The TLT load may include an inductor having first and second opposing terminals. The first terminal of the inductor may be coupled to the first terminal of the TLT load. A first terminal of a second one of the capacitors in the TLT load may be coupled to the second terminal of the inductor. A second terminal of the second one of the capacitors may be coupled to the second terminal of the TLT load. At least one of the first and second ones of the capacitors may be a metal-insulator-metal (MIM) capacitor. The reference potential which the second terminal of the TLT load is coupled to may be ground.

The amplifier device may include a transistor having a source terminal, a drain terminal and a gate terminal. The amplifier device may be coupled to receive the impedance matched signal at the gate terminal of the transistor and configured to generate the amplified signal at the drain terminal of the transistor. The transistor may be provided as a field-effect transistor (FET). The source terminal of the transistor may be coupled to a reference potential. The reference potential which the source terminal of the transistor may be coupled to may be ground. The second impedance of the TLT may be an input impedance of the gate terminal of the transistor. At least the TLT may be provided as part of an impedance match device. The amplifier device may be provided as part of a power amplifier (PA) circuit. The circuit may be integrated into a communications device.

In another aspect of the concepts described herein, a circuit for amplifying a source signal generated by a signal source having a first impedance includes a transmission line transformer (TLT) having first, second, third, and fourth ports. The TLT is coupled to receive the source signal at the first port and configured to output a corresponding impedance matched signal at the first port. The second port of the TLT is coupled to the third port of the TLT. The circuit also includes a TLT load having a first terminal coupled to the second port of the TLT and a second, opposing terminal coupled to a reference potential. The circuit additionally includes a capacitor coupled to the fourth port of the TLT. The circuit further includes an amplifier device responsive to the impedance matched signal to generate an amplified signal. The amplifier device has a second impedance. Additionally, the TLT matches the first impedance of the signal source with the second impedance of the amplifier device such that the impedance matched signal and the source signal are substantially equal in magnitude.

The circuit may include one or more of the following features individually or in combination with other features. The TLT load may include one or more resistors and one or

more capacitors. A first terminal of a first one of the resistors may be coupled to the first terminal of the TLT load. A first terminal of a first one of the capacitors may be coupled to a second terminal of the first one of the resistors. A second terminal of the first one of the capacitors may be coupled to the second terminal of the TLT load. The TLT load may include an inductor having first and second opposing terminals. The first terminal of the inductor may be coupled to the first terminal of the TLT load. A first terminal of a second one of the capacitors may be coupled to the second terminal of the inductor. A second terminal of the second one of the capacitors may be coupled to the second terminal of the TLT load.

The amplifier device may include a transistor having a source terminal, a drain terminal and a gate terminal. The amplifier device may be coupled to receive the impedance matched signal at the gate terminal of the transistor and configured to generate the amplified signal at the drain terminal of the transistor. The second impedance of the TLT may be an input impedance of the gate terminal of the transistor.

In another aspect of the concepts described herein, a circuit includes a transmission line transformer (TLT) having a first, a second, a third, and a fourth port, with the second port coupled to the third port. The circuit also includes a TLT load having a first terminal coupled to the fourth port of the TLT and a second terminal coupled to a reference potential. The TLT load includes a resistor and capacitor coupled in series. The circuit additionally includes an amplifier device coupled to the second port of the TLT. The amplifier device has an impedance different than an impedance at the first port of the TLT.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Features and advantages of the concepts, systems, circuits and techniques disclosed herein will be apparent from the following description of the embodiments taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an example system for amplifying a source signal which includes a transmission line transformer (TLT) and a TLT load;

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of another example system for amplifying a source signal which includes a TLT and a TLT load;

FIG. 3 is a block diagram of an example TLT load which may be used in the systems of FIGS. 1 and 2;

FIG. 3A is a block diagram of another example TLT load which may be used in the systems of FIGS. 1 and 2; and

FIG. 4 is a block diagram of another example system for amplifying a signal which includes a TLT and a TLT load.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring now to FIG. 1, a system 100 according to the disclosure (e.g., a power amplifier system) which may be used to amplify a signal (e.g., a source signal, as will be discussed) is shown. A system 10 includes a signal source 110, the power amplifier system 100 and a signal receiver 150. The power amplifier system 100 includes a transmission line transformer (TLT) 120, a TLT load 130 and an amplifier device 140. TLT 120 is serially coupled in a signal path between an output 110a of signal source 110 and an input 140a of amplifier device 140. Additionally, amplifier device 140 is serially coupled in a signal path between an output of TLT 120 (here, port 120b) and an input 150a of signal receiver 150.

Signal source 110, which may be substantially any device that supplies a signal such as a signal generator, a power amplifier, or a cable coupled to a signal generator or power amplifier as a few examples, generates a source signal to be amplified at the output 110a of the signal source 110. The source signal may, for example, be substantially any electrical signal including signals utilized in electronic warfare, radar, jamming, instrumentation (test and measurement) and communication systems as a few examples. In one embodiment, the source signal includes a direct current (DC) bias (e.g., for controlling or driving the amplifier device 140). The signal source 110 has a first impedance (e.g., fifty ohms (50Ω)). The first impedance may, for example, correspond to an output impedance of the signal source 110.

The TLT 120, which may be provided as a Ruthroff type TLT, for example, has a plurality of ports (here, four ports). A first one of the ports 120a of the TLT 120, which is also sometimes referred to herein as a “first port” 120a, is coupled to output 110a of the signal source 110. First port 120a corresponds to an input port of the TLT 120 in the illustrated embodiment. A second one of the ports 120b of the TLT 120, which is also sometimes referred to herein as a “second port” 120b, is coupled to an input 140a of amplifier device 140. The amplifier device 140 has a second impedance (e.g., one ohm (1Ω)). The second impedance may, for example, correspond to an input impedance of the amplifier device 140. Second port 120b is also coupled to a third one of the ports 120c of the TLT 120, which is sometimes referred to herein as a “third port” 120c. Second port 120b corresponds to an output port of the TLT 120 in the illustrated embodiment. Additionally, a fourth one of the ports 120d of the TLT 120, which is also sometimes referred to herein as a “fourth port” 120d (e.g., a “shunt” leg or port), is coupled to a first terminal of the TLT load 130 (e.g., an electrical load).

The TLT load 130, which may include one or more resistors, one or more capacitors, and/or one or more inductors, as will be discussed in further detail in conjunction with FIGS. 3 and 3A, also has a second terminal which is electrically coupled to a reference potential. The reference potential may be ground, which may be a system ground, earth ground, or otherwise.

The TLT 120 is coupled to receive the source signal generated by the signal source 110 at the first port 120a and, in response thereto, TLT 120 provides a corresponding impedance matched signal at the second port 120b. In providing the impedance matched signal, the TLT 120 attempts to match the first impedance of the signal source 110 with the second impedance of the amplifier device 140 such that the impedance matched signal and the source signal are substantially equal in magnitude. Such may, for example, provide for efficient transfer of the signals (i.e., source signals) from signal source 110 to amplifier device 140, and an increased bandwidth of amplifier device 140. In one embodiment, the impedance matched signal is substantially the same as the source signal except for any loss associated with the transfer of the source signal from output 110a of signal source 110 to second port 120b of TLT 120 through TLT 120. The TLT 120 may also match the first impedance of the signal source 110 with the second impedance of the amplifier device 140 to a predetermined characteristic impedance (e.g., a characteristic impedance of about fifty ohms (50 Ωs)). Operation of TLTs (e.g., 120) is known in the art and, therefore, is not described in detail herein.

The amplifier device 140, which may include or be provided as an output transistor of the system of FIG. 1 or

of an amplifier circuit, as will be discussed further in conjunction with the figures below, is coupled to receive the impedance matched signal at input **140a**. In response to receiving the impedance matched signal, amplifier device **140** amplifies the impedance matched signal and provides an amplified signal at an output **140b** of amplifier device **140**. The signal receiver **150** (e.g., a base station), which has an input **150a** coupled to output **140b**, is coupled to receive the amplified signal at the input **150a**. The amplified signal may, for example, be received at the input **150a** and provided to signal processing circuitry (not shown) in the signal receiver **150** for further processing using techniques well known to those of ordinary skill in the art.

In one embodiment, the TLT **120** and the TLT load **130** are each provided as part of an impedance matching device or network used to match the first impedance of the signal source **110** with the second impedance of the amplifier device **140**. In particular, the TLT **120** in combination with the TLT load **130** may be used to match the first impedance of the signal source **110** with the second impedance of the amplifier device **140** to deliver maximum power from the signal source **110** to the amplifier device **140**, and improve bandwidth of amplifier device **140** (and the system including the amplifier device **140**). The TLT **120** and the TLT load **130** may, for example, extend the bandwidth of the impedance transformation of the impedance matched signal provided by the TLT **120** in comparison to known impedance matching networks (e.g., impedance matching networks utilizing shunt capacitors).

Additionally, in one embodiment, at least one of the TLT **120**, TLT load **130**, and amplifier device **140** is provided as part of an amplifier circuit **100** (e.g., a power amplifier (PA) circuit). The amplifier circuit **100** is not properly a part of the system in the illustrated embodiment and is thus shown in phantom.

Further, in one embodiment, one or more of the circuit elements of FIG. **1** described above (e.g., TLT **120**, TLT **130**) and one or more of the circuit elements of FIGS. **2-3B** and **4** described below may be provided as part of or implemented in an integrated circuit (IC) as may be found in electronic warfare, radar, jamming, instrumentation (test and measurement) and/or communication devices (e.g., in a handset or base station) as a few examples. Example ICs include Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuits (MMICs).

Additional aspects of the concepts, systems, circuits and techniques sought to be protected herein, with particular emphasis on the impedance matching provided by TLTs (e.g., **120**) in combination with TLT loads (e.g., **130**), are described in conjunction with the figures below.

Referring now to FIG. **2**, in which like elements of FIG. **1** are provided having like reference designations, another example system **200** (e.g., a power amplifier system) for amplifying a signal is shown. A system **20** includes the signal source **110**, the power amplifier system **200** and the signal receiver **150**. The power amplifier system **200** includes an impedance matching network **260**, which includes a TLT **220** and a TLT load **130**, and an amplifier device **240**. TLT **220** is serially coupled in a signal path between an output **110a** of signal source **110** and an input **240a** of amplifier device **240**. Additionally, amplifier device **240** is serially coupled in a signal path between an output **220b** of TLT **220** and an input **150a** of signal receiver **150**. The signal source **110** has a first impedance (e.g., an output impedance), and the amplifier device **240** has a second impedance (e.g., an input impedance).

The TLT **220**, which may be the same as or similar to TLT **120** of FIG. **1**, has a first port **220a**, a second port **220b**, a third port **220c** and a fourth port **220d**. TLT **220** also includes a pair of conductors (here, conductors **222**, **224**) in the illustrated embodiment. Conductor **222** is coupled between first port **220a** and second port **220b**, and conductor **224** is coupled between third port **220c** and fourth port **220d**. A first terminal of TLT load is coupled to the fourth port **220d** (e.g., a "shunt" leg or port). First port **220a** corresponds to an input port of the TLT **220** and second port **220b** corresponds to an output port of the TLT **220** in the illustrated embodiment.

The TLT **220** is coupled to receive a source signal generated by the signal source **110** at the first port **220a** and, in response thereto, TLT **220** provides a corresponding impedance matched signal at the second port **220b**. Similar to TLT **120** of FIG. **1**, in providing the impedance matched signal, the TLT **220** attempts to match the first impedance of the signal source **110** with the second impedance of the amplifier device **240** such that the impedance matched signal and the source signal are substantially equal in magnitude. In one embodiment, the TLT **220** in combination with the TLT load **130** matches the first impedance of the signal source **110** with the second impedance of the amplifier device **240** to deliver maximum power from the signal source **110** to the amplifier device **240**, and to improve bandwidth of amplifier device **240** (and the system of FIG. **2**).

The amplifier device **240**, which may be the same as or similar to amplifier device **140** of FIG. **1**, has an input **240a** and an output **240b**. Amplifier device **240** also includes a transistor **242** (i.e., a transformer matched transistor **242**) which is disposed in a signal path between the input **240a** and the output **240b**. The transistor **242**, which may be provided as an output transistor of the system of FIG. **2** or of an amplifier circuit **200**, as will be discussed, has a first terminal **242a** coupled to input **240a**, a second terminal **242b** coupled to output **240b**, and a third terminal **242c** coupled to a reference potential (e.g., ground). The transistor **242** is coupled to receive the impedance matched signal at the first terminal **242a** and configured to generate an amplified signal at the second terminal **242b**. Additionally, in embodiments in which the source signal includes a DC bias, as noted above in conjunction with FIG. **1**, the DC bias may be passed through the TLT **220** via the source signal and received at first terminal **242a** of transistor **242** via the impedance matched signal. Such may, for example, allow for more efficient operation of transistor **242**.

The signal receiver **150** is coupled to receive the amplified signal from second terminal **242b** (and output terminal **240b**) at input **150a** of signal receiver **150**. As described above in conjunction with FIG. **1**, the amplified signal may, for example, be received at the input **150a** and provided to signal processing circuitry (not shown) in the signal receiver **150** for further processing.

In one embodiment, the transistor **242** is provided as a field-effect transistor (FET) having a gate terminal, a source terminal and a drain terminal. The gate terminal may correspond to the first terminal **242a** of the transistor **242**, the source terminal may correspond to the second terminal **242b** of the transistor **242**, and the drain terminal may correspond to the third terminal **242c** of the transistor **242**. In this embodiment, the second impedance of the amplifier device **240** may correspond to an input impedance of the gate terminal of the FET. The transistor **242** may also be provided as a bipolar junction transistor (BJT) having a base terminal, an emitter terminal and a collector terminal. The base terminal may correspond to the first terminal **242a** of the

transistor **242**, the emitter terminal may correspond to the second terminal **242b** of the transistor **242**, and the collector terminal may correspond to the third terminal **242c** of the transistor **242**. In this embodiment, the second impedance of the amplifier device **240** may correspond to an input impedance of the base terminal of the BJT.

In one embodiment, the TLT **220** and the TLT load **130** are each provided as part of an impedance matching device or network **260**. As a result of the impedance matching performed by the impedance matching circuit **260**, the impedance matched signal arrives at first terminal **242a** of transistor **242** with minimal signal loss. Additionally, the bandwidth of transistor **242** is increased over known amplifiers that utilize a shunt capacitor as an impedance matching device directly on an input of the amplifier (e.g., first terminal **242a** of transistor **242**). Further, in one embodiment, TLT **220**, TLT load **130** and amplifier device **240** are each provided as part of an amplifier circuit (e.g., a power amplifier (PA) circuit) **200**. In such embodiment, the transistor **242** may be provided as an output transistor of the amplifier circuit **200**.

Additionally, in one embodiment, the system of FIG. **2** further includes an RC network (e.g., a parallel RC network) (not shown) which is disposed in a signal path between second port **220b** of TLT **220** and input **240a** of amplifier device **240** (e.g., to provide improved input matching of transistor **242** over frequency).

In one aspect of the disclosure herein, by providing the TLT **220** (or alternatively the TLT load **130** of FIG. **1**) in a signal path between output port **110a** of signal source **110** and the first terminal **242a** (e.g., a gate terminal) of transistor **242**, bandwidth of amplifier device **240** is improved over known systems which utilize a shunt capacitor for impedance matching.

Referring now to FIG. **3**, an example TLT load **330** as may be the same as or similar to the TLT load **130** of FIG. **1** or TLT load **130** of FIG. **2**, for example, is shown. The TLT load **330** has a first terminal and a second terminal and includes a resistor **332** and a capacitor **334** in the illustrated embodiment. Resistor **332** has a first terminal coupled to the first terminal of the TLT load **330**, and a second terminal coupled to a first terminal of the capacitor **334**. The capacitor **334**, which may be a metal-insulator-metal (MIM) capacitor, for example, has a second terminal coupled to the second terminal of the TLT load **330**. The second terminal of the TLT load **330** may, for example, be coupled to a reference potential (e.g., ground), as described above in conjunction with FIG. **1**.

The resistor **332** and the capacitor **334** may have resistance and capacitance values, respectively, which are selected at least in part based on impedances of the signal source (e.g., **110**) and the amplifier device (e.g., **240**) to which the TLT (e.g., **220**) and the TLT load **330** are coupled (e.g., to improve bandwidth and stability of the system in which the signal source and the amplifier device are provided). In one embodiment, the resistor **332** has a resistance of about five ohms ( $5\Omega$ ) and the capacitor **334** has a capacitance of about five picofarad ( $5\text{ pF}$ ). Additionally, in one embodiment, at least one of the resistor **332** and the capacitor **334** is provided as a so-called "off-chip" resistor or capacitor, respectively (e.g., to provide for increased performance of the system in which the signal source, the TLT and the amplifier device are provided). Further, in one embodiment, the capacitor **334** may have substantially any capacitance which is sufficient to provide a substantially "low" radio-frequency (RF) impedance, and the capacitance

may depend on a frequency of a source signal which is received by the TLT to which the TLT load **330** is coupled.

The above-described TLT load **330** may, for example, extend the bandwidth of the impedance transformation of the impedance matched signal provided by the TLT to which the TLT load **330** is coupled.

It should, of course, be appreciated that the TLT load **330** shown in FIG. **3** is representative of but one example configuration of other configurations of a TLT load. Another example configuration of a TLT load is, for example, described below in conjunction with FIG. **3A**.

Referring now to FIG. **3A**, in which like elements of FIG. **3** are provided having like reference designations, an example TLT load **1330** has a first terminal and a second terminal and includes the resistor **332** and capacitor **334**. The TLT load **1330** also includes an inductor **336** and a capacitor **338** in the illustrated embodiment. Resistor **332** has a first terminal coupled to the first terminal of the TLT load **1330**, and a second terminal coupled to a first terminal of the capacitor **334**. Additionally, the capacitor **334** has a second terminal coupled to the second terminal of the TLT load **1330**. Similar to TLT load **330**, the second terminal of the TLT load **1330** may be coupled to a reference potential (e.g., ground).

Inductor **336** has a first terminal coupled to the first terminal of the resistor **332**, and a second terminal coupled to a first terminal of the capacitor **338**. The capacitor **338**, which may be the same as or similar to capacitor **334** in some embodiments, has a second terminal coupled to a reference potential. In one embodiment, the reference potential is the same as the reference potential to which the second terminal of the TLT load **1330** is coupled.

Similar to resistor **332** and capacitor **334** of TLT load **330**, the resistor **332**, the capacitor **334**, the inductor **336**, and the resistor **338** of TLT load **1330** may have resistance, capacitance and inductance values, respectively, which are selected at least in part based on impedances of the signal source (e.g., **110**) and the amplifier device (e.g., **240**) to which the TLT (e.g., **220**) and the TLT load **1330** are coupled. In one embodiment, resistor **332** has a resistance of about five ohms ( $5\Omega$ ), capacitor **334** and capacitor **338** each have a capacitance of about five picofarad ( $5\text{ pF}$ ), and inductor **336** has an inductance of about zero-point-two nanoHenry ( $0.2\text{ nH}$ ). Additionally, in one embodiment, capacitor **334** has a different capacitance from capacitor **338**. In such embodiment, at least one of capacitor **334** and capacitor **338** may, for example, be used to adjust the frequencies which the TLT load **1330** passes (i.e., adjust the bandwidth of the TLT load **1330**).

Although TLT load **1330** is provided as a second order resistor-inductor-capacitor (RLC) circuit or network in the illustrated embodiment, and TLT load **330** is provided as a first order resistor-capacitor (RC) circuit or network in the embodiment of FIG. **3**, it should, of course, be appreciated that other TLT loads may also be provided to include third order or greater circuits or networks.

Further, the number, arrangement (e.g., series or parallel), and values (e.g., resistance, capacitance and inductance values) of the elements (e.g., resistors, capacitors, and inductors) of the TLT loads (e.g., **330**) may be selected in an embodiment depending upon whether the source signal received by the TLT to which the TLT loads are coupled includes a DC bias or if a DC bias is being supplied from other circuitry in the system in which the TLT and the TLT loads are provided.

Referring now to FIG. **4**, another example system **400** (e.g., a power amplifier system) for amplifying a signal is

shown. A system **40** includes the signal source **110**, the power amplifier system **400** and the signal receiver **150**. The power amplifier system **400** includes an impedance matching device **460** and the amplifier device **240**. The impedance matching device **460** includes the TLT **220**, the TLT Load **130** and a capacitor **430**. The output of the signal source **110** is coupled to the input of the amplifier device **240** as well as to the first port **220a** of TLT **220** (here, a so-called “shunt loaded shunt TLT” of the impedance matching device **460**). Additionally, a second port **220b** of TLT **220** is coupled to a third port **220c** of TLT **220** and to TLT load **130**. Further, the capacitor **430**, which may be the same as or similar to capacitor **334** of FIG. **3**, for example, is coupled to fourth port **220d** (e.g., a “shunt” leg or port) of TLT **220**.

TLT **220** is coupled to receive a source signal generated by the signal source **110** at first port **220a** and, in response thereto, TLT **220** provides an impedance matched signal at the first port **220a**. Similar to TLT **220** of FIG. **2**, in generating the impedance matched signal, the TLT **220** of FIG. **4** attempts to match the first impedance of the signal source **110** with the second impedance of the amplifier device **240** such that the impedance matched signal and the source signal are substantially equal in magnitude. In one embodiment, the second impedance of the amplifier device **240** is an impedance associated with the first terminal **242a** (e.g., a gate terminal) of transistor **242**. The impedance matched signal is received at input **240a** of amplifier device **240** which, similar to amplifier device **240** of FIG. **2**, amplifies the impedance matched signal and provides an amplified signal at an output **240b**.

In the illustrated embodiment, TLT **220** is in a so-called “shunt orientation” relative to the transistor **242**, and the thru portion of TLT **220** (here, the signal path between first port **220a** and second port **220b**) is “loaded” with the TLT load **130** (i.e., the TLT load **130** is in a shunt orientation relative to the transistor **242**). Both the system of FIG. **2** and the system of FIG. **4** are capable of transforming impedance at the first input **242a** (e.g., the gate) of transistor **242**, but in accordance with one embodiment, these systems transform the impedance in a different manner.

Having described preferred embodiments, which serve to illustrate various concepts, structures and techniques, which are the subject of this disclosure, it will now become apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that other embodiments incorporating these concepts, structures and techniques may be used. Additionally, elements of different embodiments described herein may be combined to form other embodiments not specifically set forth above.

For example, while circuits including transmission line transformers (TLTs) which are the same as or similar to each other are described in several examples below, such are discussed to promote simplicity, clarity and understanding in the drawings as well as in the written description of the teachings herein and is not intended to be, and should not be construed, as limiting. The teachings herein may, of course, be implemented using TLTs which are different from each other.

Additionally, while TLT loads (e.g., electrical loads) including a select number of resistors (e.g., one resistor), capacitors (e.g., one capacitor), and/or inductors (e.g., one inductor) are described in several examples below, the select number of resistors, capacitors and/or inductors are discussed to promote simplicity, clarity and understanding in the drawings as well as in the written description of the teachings herein and is not intended to be, and should not be construed, as limiting. The teachings disclosed herein may,

of course, be implemented using more than or less than the select number of resistors, capacitors and/or inductors.

Accordingly, it is submitted that that scope of the disclosure should not be limited to the described embodiments but rather should be limited only by the spirit and scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A circuit for amplifying a source signal generated by a signal source having a first impedance, said circuit comprising:

a transmission line transformer (TLT) having a first, a second, a third, and a fourth port, said TLT coupled to receive the source signal at the first port and configured to output a corresponding impedance matched signal at the second port, wherein the second port of said TLT is coupled to the third port of said TLT;

a TLT load including one or more resistors and one or more capacitors, and having a first terminal coupled to the fourth port of said TLT and a second terminal coupled to a reference potential; and

an amplifier device responsive to the impedance matched signal to generate an amplified signal, said amplifier device having a second impedance,

wherein said TLT matches the first impedance of said signal source with the second impedance of said amplifier device such that the impedance matched signal and the source signal are substantially equal in magnitude.

2. The circuit of claim 1 wherein said TLT load further includes one or more inductors.

3. The circuit of claim 1 wherein a first terminal of a first one of the resistors is coupled to the first terminal of said TLT load, a first terminal of a first one of the capacitors is coupled to a second terminal of the first one of the resistors, and a second terminal of the first one of the capacitors is coupled to the second terminal of said TLT load.

4. The circuit of claim 3 further comprising:

an inductor having a first terminal and a second terminal, wherein the first terminal of the inductor is coupled to the first terminal of said TLT load, a first terminal of a second one of the capacitors is coupled to the second terminal of the inductor, and a second terminal of the second one of the capacitors is coupled to the second terminal of said TLT load.

5. The circuit of claim 4 wherein at least one of the first and second ones of the capacitors is a metal-insulator-metal (MIM) capacitor.

6. The circuit of claim 1 wherein the reference potential is ground.

7. The circuit of claim 1 wherein said amplifier device includes a transistor having a source terminal, a drain terminal and a gate terminal, wherein said amplifier device is coupled to receive the impedance matched signal at the gate terminal of the transistor and configured to generate the amplified signal at the drain terminal of the transistor.

8. The circuit of claim 7 wherein the transistor is provided as a field-effect transistor (FET).

9. The circuit of claim 7 wherein the source terminal of the transistor is coupled to a reference potential.

10. The circuit of claim 9 wherein the reference potential is ground.

11. The circuit of claim 7 wherein the second impedance is an input impedance of the gate terminal of the transistor.

12. The circuit of claim 1 wherein at least said TLT is provided as part of an impedance match device.

13. The circuit of claim 1 wherein said amplifier device is provided as part of a power amplifier (PA) circuit.

11

14. The circuit of claim 1 wherein the circuit is integrated into a communications device.

15. A circuit for amplifying a source signal generated by a signal source having a first impedance, said circuit comprising:

a transmission line transformer (TLT) having a first, a second, a third, and a fourth port, said TLT coupled to receive the source signal at the first port and configured to output a corresponding impedance matched signal at the first port, wherein the second port of said TLT is coupled to the third port of said TLT;

a TLT load including one or more resistors and one or more capacitors, and having a first terminal coupled to the second port of said TLT and a second terminal coupled to a reference potential, wherein a first terminal of a first one of the resistors is coupled to the first terminal of said TLT load, a first terminal of a first one of the capacitors is coupled to a second terminal of the first one of the resistors, and a second terminal of the first one of the capacitors is coupled to the second terminal of said TLT load;

a capacitor coupled to the fourth port of said TLT; and an amplifier device responsive to the impedance matched signal to generate an amplified signal, said amplifier device having a second impedance,

wherein said TLT matches the first impedance of said signal source with the second impedance of said amplifier device such that the impedance matched signal and the source signal are substantially equal in magnitude.

16. The circuit of claim 15 further comprising:

an inductor having first and second opposing terminals, wherein the first terminal of the inductor is coupled to the first terminal of said TLT load, a first terminal of a

12

second one of the capacitors is coupled to the second terminal of the inductor, and a second terminal of the second one of the capacitors is coupled to the second terminal of said TLT load.

17. The circuit of claim 15 wherein said amplifier device includes a transistor having a source terminal, a drain terminal and a gate terminal, wherein said amplifier device is coupled to receive the impedance matched signal at the gate terminal of the transistor and configured to generate the amplified signal at the drain terminal of the transistor, wherein the second impedance is an input impedance of the gate terminal of the transistor.

18. A circuit comprising:

a transmission line transformer (TLT) having a first, a second, a third, and a fourth port, with the second port coupled to the third port;

a TLT load having a first terminal coupled to the fourth port of said TLT and a second terminal coupled to a reference potential, said TLT load comprising a resistor and capacitor coupled in series; and

an amplifier device directly coupled to the second port of said TLT, said amplifier device having an impedance different than an impedance at the first port of said TLT.

19. The circuit of the claim 18 wherein said TLT load further includes an inductor having a first terminal coupled to the resistor and a second terminal coupled to a reference potential.

20. The circuit of claim 18 wherein said amplifier device includes a transistor having a source terminal, a drain terminal and a gate terminal, wherein the gate terminal of the transistor is coupled to the second port of said TLT.

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